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CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for classifying a remote procedure call from a client system in a first network that initiates connections to a remote server in a second network via a classifying edge router using a client and underlying remote procedure call transport code, the method comprising:

detecting when a connection carrying high value data for the remote procedure call is created;

using a side channel to communicate flow information associated with the detected connection to the classifying edge router, the flow information including a port number associated with the communication, the flow information provided to enable the classifying edge router to ~~classify assign a quality of service classifier to the remote procedure call as it is transferred from the first network for appropriately prioritized transfer~~ to the second network; and

incorporating the flow information into a differentiated services classification subsystem of the classifying edge router by associating a ~~the~~ quality of service level to the detected connection ~~in accordance with the flow information~~.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises:

providing an Application Programming Interface (API) to calling applications;

detecting when applications call the API; and

executing a remote procedure routine based on a call by an application, the remote procedure routing including forwarding the flow information to the classifying edge router via the side channel.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

executing comprises accessing a remote procedure call API; and

the API provided to calling applications includes functionality duplicative of remote procedure call API functionality.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein:

executing comprises accessing a remote procedure call API; and

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the API provided to calling applications presents an interface duplicative of the remote procedure call API to calling applications.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

obtaining flow information from an application call to the API; and
providing the flow information to the classifying edge router via the side channel.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the side channel is implemented as Common Gateway Interface (CGI) script from the client to the classifying edge router.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein incorporating includes:

using the flow information to determine a differentiated services classification for the connection; and
marking traffic delivered to the connection by the classifying router based on the classification.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting the identify of the client making the remote procedure call, the flow information further containing this detected identify.

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11. (currently amended) An apparatus for classifying a remote procedure call from a client system in a first network that initiates connections to a remote server in a second network via a classifying edge router using a client and underlying remote procedure call transport code, the apparatus comprising:

a module configured to detect when a connection carrying high value data for the remote procedure call is created;

a module configured to use a side channel to communicate flow information associated with the detected connection to the classifying edge router, wherein the flow information includes a port number associated with the remote procedure call, the flow information provided to enable the classifying edge router to classify assign a quality of service classifier to the remote procedure call as it is transferred from the first network for appropriately prioritized transfer to the second network; and

a module configured to incorporate the flow information into a differentiated services classification subsystems of the classifying router by associating a the quality of service level to the detected connection in accordance with the flow information.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the detecting module is further configured to:

provide an Application Programming Interface (API) to calling applications;
detect when applications call the API; and
execute a remote procedure routine based on a call by an application.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:

the detecting module is further configured to access a remote procedure call API; and
the API provided to calling applications includes functionality duplicative of remote procedure call API functionality.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein:

the detecting module is further configured to access a remote procedure call API; and

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the API provided to calling applications presents an interface duplicative of the remote procedure call API to calling applications.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the side channel module is further configured to:

obtain flow information from an application call to the API; and
provide the flow information to the classifying edge router via the side channel.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the side channel is implemented as a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) script from the client to the classifying edge router.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the flow information includes a five-tuple including sender and receiver Media Access Control (MAC) and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, sender and receiver MAC and IP port numbers, and Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) protocol type for the connection.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the incorporating module is further configured to:

use the flow information to determine a differentiated services classification for the connection; and

mark traffic delivered to the connection by the classifying edge router based on the classification.

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20. (original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the side channel module is further configured to detect the identity of the client making the remote procedure call, the flow information further containing this detected identity.